

BOROUGH OF LONGPORT
NON-RESIDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING: 7/16/05

In Attendance: Mayor George Baumgardner, Commissioner John Stroebele, Myron Bernstein, John Fox, Mickey Magid, Shawn Seilback, Susan Seilback, Marc Silver, Joanne Tauber, Paul Tauber

Regrets: Commissioner Mary Garvin, Alan Silberstein, D'veral Silberstein

The Chairperson opened the meeting and asked for updates on **OLD BUSINESS:**

Siren: Information is still being gathered on how to remedy the situation. It was suggested that if the siren is not being replaced, then it should be moved to the center of the island which will allow it to be heard throughout more of Longport. That will then be the impetus to change it. Some felt it would present a liability issue if it is moved and it's not in compliance. It was suggested that the borough look at how other beach communities deal with this issue. Commissioner Stroebele reported that based on "Insurance Officers Standards" every community along the flood plane requires that there be 2 methods of alerting responders, that we're at the top of the queue to change our technology, and that we should be hearing from the County Emergency Management team by the middle of August as to whether we're funded. If we are, we would place the order; if not, the commissioners will see if they can get it into the budget for next year.

Burglar Alarms: Committee member reported on her meeting with Chief of Police Scott Porter. At present, there is no ordinance requiring homeowners who have burglar alarm systems to register them with the Longport police department. Chief Porter does not feel this is a problem. There are requirements that alarms be kept in good working order to assure maximum reliability of operation, and there are penalties and fines for more than three false alarms in any calendar year. Chief Porter felt that even more important than protection from burglaries (which were too few for him to even mention), is the protection of property from catastrophes such as frozen pipes, burst pipes, etc. He is all in favor of homeowners providing the department with emergency contact people who have access to their homes in case of such happenings. A mailing has gone out asking for that information, and he is pleased with the result. He did say that some homeowners are reluctant to give their permanent residence phone

numbers, etc. Mayor Baumgardner stated that he will see to it that a request for this information be put in the next newsletter. [Question: how many newsletters go out per year. There is not set number, but usually the first one is in the Spring and contains information on department activity; the second is a “summer’s on the way” piece; the third focuses on seniors activities.]

Burying the Wires: Report on conversation with Dick Carter, Borough Engineer: The PUC mandates that the cost of putting wires underground be passed onto the consumer. There are no grants available for this type of construction. He doesn’t feel that the commissioners could float a bond for this type of improvement as a bond needs to indicate length of time for the betterment of the community and this would be looked on as more a project simply for aesthetics. They might be able to do an assessment bond, but the individual homeowners would have a lien against their property until the bond matured and was paid off. Mr. Carter indicated that Commissioner Stroebele had inquired about this from Conectiv, and thought he remembered the figure being \$100,000/block, however he didn’t know if that was a block of the main trunk line, the tributary lines down the streets that the homes fed off, or both. He gave the committee Lee Wasman’s (Conectiv) email, and we have addressed many questions to him regarding the project. We will report on his answers. John Stroebele added that the borough can put some pressure on the local franchises (Verizon, Comcast) by encouraging competition.

Cigarette Boats: Commissioner Stroebele reported that the Chief of Police is to be in contact with the State Marine Police and Coast Guard about the noise and speed levels. He will provide them with letters from citizens written to him. Progress is being made, and by our next meeting, there should be something in writing from the Borough Solicitor.

Planters: A suggestion was posed as to whether this committee should be putting a formal proposal to the Borough Council to recommend going forward with putting planters in the proposed wider medial strip of Atlantic Ave. The Mayor responded that the plan should be put on hold until the street demarcation is done and people get comfortable with it, and it accomplishes its desired safety effect. The committee agreed that we shouldn’t be going ahead before we know that the plan is permanent. A question arose as to whether any thought had gone into how making left turns will work. The Mayor will review the plan to see why there are no planned left turns, and will get back to us.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sewers: A committee member questioned whether sewers will be updated on blocks that haven’t been done yet, that the sewers on Ventnor Ave. don’t support the water flow. (photos were presented to show high water levels on Ventnor Ave.) The Mayor responded that the Sewer Improvement Program was for

sewage, not high water problems; water flows to the ocean and the bay. He will have the storm drains at 32nd and 33rd & Ventnor checked to see if they're performing up to capacity.

[The Mayor and Commissioner Stroebele discussed whether calls like this should come from them to the department heads, or from us as committee members. We suggested that they make the department heads aware of both committees so that if we contact them, they will be receptive. This was agreed to and therefore, a committee member will call re the sewers, and present the photos Mr. Trinkle, Public Works department head.]

Community Center: The point was raised that there is only one bathroom stall per men/women. Commissioner S. responded that they are aware of this and are going to make the bathrooms unisex and see how it works.

Life Guards: Feedback from the community is that there are safety issues regarding the downsizing of the life guard patrol. Commissioner S. responded, telling the committee that this all started because the commissioners took issue with the unemployment claims filed by lifeguards which cost the borough \$10,000: the borough has been fighting these claims as the position is clearly a seasonal one. A Mon-Thurs ordinance was passed requiring 25 lifeguards on 11 beaches, and Fri-Sat-Sun, 30 guards. There are 3 lieutenants and 7 "rookies" were hired, who are not "useless" as has been claimed. They are looking at possibly combining some stands during the week next season. All guards have radios to alert others when on a rescue. They are also looking at safety issues carefully, especially regarding surfboards. A permanent lifeguard is eligible to re-certify every year. We recommended that the unemployment comp. issue be resolved at arbitration since Longport has a contract with the lifeguard's union. Commissioner S. will evaluate his suggestion with their attorney.

Beach Ice Cream Issue: There have been complaints that the prices of ice cream treats are very high. The Mayor stated that there is an approved price list, and he will bring it to the next meeting. Commissioner S. reported that Longport collected \$23,000 for licenses from vendors by holding an auction, which was the Mayor's idea.

Web Site: A suggestion was made that the borough web site have a "link" to the Residents and Non-Residents Committee to bring the community in to what's going on. Commissioner S. asked us to be patient with the Residents Committee, that they meet every 4th Wednesday of each month and are getting into email. If we want, we can send our Minutes to Amy Strawder, Public Safety Telecommunications Supervisor.

[With regard to the Minutes, Commissioner Stroebele suggested that the Minutes should continue to list all recommendations made by the Committee until action is taken, therefore the following remain on the table to be addressed:

1. Changing the siren at 31st Ave.
2. Cigarette boats: noise pollution and excessive speed
3. Beautification of Atlantic Ave.
4. Burying the utility wires

There were no further items on the agenda.

Next Meeting: 8/6/05, 9:30AM

Please contact me with any additions or corrections to the Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Seilback